

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-7 and 9-16 were pending. By the present response, claims 2, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended, and claim 1 has been canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2-7 and 9-16 are pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: page 9, lines 4, 12-14 and 23-24; page 10, lines 2-3; page 12, lines 4-9; Figures 1 and 5-7; and the original claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 9-11, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,874,245 to Liu (hereafter "*Liu*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action.

By the present response, claim 1 has been canceled in favor of claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 9-11, 13 and 16 have been amended such that they now depend from claim 2. Since claim 2 was not rejected on the basis of *Liu*, the above-noted grounds for rejection have been obviated.

Claims 1, 7 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,839,981 to Rafter (hereafter "*Rafter*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action.

As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled, and claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Claims 7 and 11-12 have been amended such that they now depend from claim 2. Since claim 2 has not been rejected on the basis of *Rafter*, the above-noted grounds for rejection have been obviated.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2-6 and 14-15 contains allowable subject matter, as noted in paragraph 4 of the Official Action. As noted above, by the present response claims 2, 5 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form and the remaining claims amended to depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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